

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification beginning at page 4, line 3, as follows:

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The numeral 10 refers generally to the generally Y-shaped winch assembly of this invention. Winch assembly 10 includes a stem or post portion 12 which is channel-shaped or C-shaped and which includes sides 14 and 15 and back wall 16. ~~IN~~In one embodiment, the stem portion 12 is positioned so that the "opening" of the stem portion 12 faces laterally outwardly, as seen in Figures 2, 3 and 4B. A hook member 18 is pivotally mounted between the sides 14 and 15 and is movable between latched and unlatched positions, as seen in the drawings. A spring 20 urges hook member 18 to its latched position. Hook member 18 could also be urged to the latched position by a counterweight assembly. The lower end of the hook member 18 includes a hook portion 22 having an upwardly and outwardly extending portion 24.

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A pair of upstanding and horizontally spaced-apart plates ~~24~~25 and 26 are secured to the upper end of stem portion 12 and have a strap receiver or drum mechanism 28 rotatably mounted therein and extending therebetween. A tubular member 30 is secured to one end of the strap receiver mechanism 28 and includes registering openings 32 formed therein adapted to receive one end of a pry bar or the like therein. The other end of the strap receiver mechanism 28 is provided with a conventional winch ratchet assembly 34.

Please amend the specification beginning at page 6, line 1, as follows:

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In some trailer configurations, it may be desirable to secure the hook portion 22 of hook member 18 to the lower end of the side area of the trailer, as seen in Figure 4A.

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In that case, the stem portion 12 would probably have to be lengthened and the channel-shaped stem portion 12 would be rotated 180° with respect to the plates 24-25 and 26. Further, the hook member 18 could be rotated 90° from the position illustrated in Figure 4 to the position of Figure 4C so that the hook portion 22 of hook member 18 engages the lower end of one of the plates of the stake pockets 52.

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